

Transition CoP Advisory Council Meeting



Minutes – March 16, 2016

Attending: Jeff Anderson, Erik Anthony, Barb Burghart, Kirsten Dvorak, Morgan Edmundson, Heather Evenson, Steven Fechle, Judy Garber, Susan Gerenz, Sam Gores, Vickay Gross, Jamie Hardt, Tonya Hertel, Becky Hoff, Julie Horntvedt, Debra Huber, Shawn Huss, Summer Ibach, Andy Johnson, Tammie Johnson, Dan Juve, Ruth Lacher, Tammy Mayer, Matthew McCleary, Kevin McDonough, Laura Mildenerberger, Better Nelson, Amy Osvold, Brian Osvold, Dawn Paulsrud, Dawn Pearson, Kyle Peterson, Mary Robinson, Roane Romanick, Natasha Sawicki, Laurie Skadsem, Nicole Strand, Lisa Stymeist, Karla Sundhagen, Gerry Teevens, John Vastag, Kristi Ware, Renee Wetzsteon, and Chantel Zeller

December 2015 minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

- **Mission:** To work towards building, supporting, and sustaining community partnerships and systems that promote and improve the scope, opportunity and quality for youth with disabilities to adequately prepare for life and career beyond high school with the individualized necessary supports identified and in place before graduation/exit.

ND Transition CoP:

- CoP continues the Advisory Council as a state team and adds a new and ongoing connection to regional teams.
- The membership on this council is actively involved in sharing practices and working on transition issues for students with disabilities with those in other agencies and family members across the state.

Membership Updates and Sharing:

- **IPAT:** Moving to Mandan space. Will provide AT to all the schools in ND through funds provided by VR. The agreement is to work with students 14-21 in schools and at home at no cost.
- **VR – Dickinson:** Referrals have increased and they are working with the school more often.

- **Foster Youth:** There is a foster youth board and they are available to present at conferences.
- **Children's Special Health Services:** Have a Statewide Data Base for Autism which providers who are serving individuals with autism are mandated to report for this data base.
- **TIPS:** Have concerns regarding training on social skills for transition students.
- **NDSCDD Council:** Two conferences coming up. 2016 Employment Conference on August 18-19, 2016 in Bismarck and 2016 Health Conference on May 13, 2016 in Fargo. New director is Julie Horntvedt
- **VR – Minot and Grand Forks:** Working with transition students earlier to think about jobs and careers.
- **State VR:** Have a contract with Mandan, Dickinson, and Fargo. Cheryl Hess is now with VR Section 511 information is on their website. WISE is giving TA on a new pilot project with the individuals that are currently receiving sub-minimum wage.
- **Anne Carlsen Center:** Community Provider for VR now. They will be implementing the employment program in Jamestown, and Grand Forks first but will be moving across the state wherever we have offices. This summer ACC will also again be hosting iCan Bike in Fargo/Moorhead (last week in July) and co-hosting in Minot (first week in August) with Pathfinder Parent Center. They will also be offering **Zot Artz for All** in 2 locations with more information coming soon. Annie's House is up and running for the spring/summer season. To schedule a trip there, contact Rachael Buss 701.263.4556.
- **NDDPI:** The 2nd Annual Northern Plains Law Conference for Students with Disabilities will be held October 3, 4, and 5 and the NDDPI Fall conference will be October 12, 13 and 14. These conferences will both be in Bismarck at the Civic Center. The Special Education Office will be providing training on the Prevent Teach Reinforce June 20-21 and 23-24 in Bismarck and Fargo. and also training for teachers on the TEACCH (Fundamentals of Structured Teaching) during the month of August. The State Autism conference will be October 26-28th in Minot.

Gerry and Barb facilitated a discussion about the Successes and Barriers in North Dakota as related to smooth transitions for youth with disabilities.

Secondary Transition in North Dakota

| Successes | Barriers |
|---|--|
| VR is now involved earlier with transition students (passage of WIOA) | Lack of options for ID, and ASD (18-21 years) for higher ed, employment, etc. |
| Support of funding and coaching with students in higher education | IEP needs more input from family and students and finished before the meeting |
| Good partnership | Lack of self-advocacy and determination – teach this earlier and have it be a goal |
| Tools available for Student led IEPs | AETs program is underutilized |
| Better collaboration | Lack of employers in rural |
| ASTEP | Lack of transportation in rural |

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| More youths are leading IEPs | Communication between families and teachers before the meeting |
| Pre-employment contracts with schools and VR | Some professionals don't invite all appropriate agencies |
| IPAT contract | First time to meet the student is at the IEP meeting at times and should be done long before that time |
| On the Job Training | ILC are not always invited to IEP |
| Paid for work at school (Grand Forks puts it in the general education fund and it is minimum wage) | Physical accessibility of Colleges/University |
| Getting school credit for work experience | Lack of services in rural |
| Health Snap Shot | More teachers and paras in schools |
| ND Youth website | Inpatient services in some areas are lacking |
| Launch My Life website | Funding cuts have impacted counseling services |
| Chaffee has a 18+ program | First responders training when dealing with youth with disabilities |
| AT tools available | Lack of services for the youth correctional facilities |
| DPI has an improvement plan – school districts has to have a goal | Lack of professional people to assist with the transition school program |
| IPAT packet are done and given to the new employees | Students and families aren't aware of what universities can offer |
| Have 2 benefit planners in ND | Families don't know what to ask for when at the IEP |
| | Parents aren't always aware of what is worked on in the school |
| | Parents don't know about assessments and what is out there |
| | IEP progress report to families does not include the transition goals |
| | Training is lacking for medical issue so they can take care of their own health |
| | ASTEP replication |
| | Losing the AT tool after school |
| | Losing the SS benefits |
| | Only 2 benefit planners in ND |

National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) Partnership Project:

Partnership Project Goals:

- 1) Increase pre-employment services delivered in cooperation with VR to local districts
 - Identify and implement pre-employment transition curriculum

- Identify evidence based practice to keep students engaged and to use in cooperative teaching efforts
 - Create targeted cooperative teaching matches between VR and LEA's to provide effective instruction in pre-employment
- 2) Increase the number of work experiences opportunities for students at risk and students with disabilities**
- Review data from the target districts and VR to show gaps and effectiveness of work experience programs
 - Identify evidence base practices to keep student engaged
 - Provide job coach training in EBPP to individuals interested in job-coaching
 - Sort by disability for trend analysis
 - Create peer-to-peer mentors for job coaching situations
- 3) Increase student and youth engagement in transition planning tasks.**
- Conduct youth survey to gather student prospective on what's working and what is not working in the transition process.
 - Identify ways to increase participation of youth on advisory committees.

Student-led IEP's was suggested as a good starting point for self-advocacy training. It was further suggested to have materials (such as templates) for the student-led IEP's on the DPI website. Parents and Educators need training on the importance of using these templates.

Practice Group (Sub-Committee) Updates:

Youth Leadership –Matt presented the youth survey for the group to review. Natasha will be the Chairperson. Other members are Vickay Gross and Gerry Teevens, and Dawn Pearson.

Guardianship – Continue and come up with the check list that can be used to prepare educators, parents/guardian, and individuals to consider guardianship or alternatives to guardianship. Amy Osvold will be the Chairperson. Brian Osvold, Kirsten Dvorak, Laurie Skadsem, and Judy Garber are members of the group.

Health Transitions – There has been good reviews on the Health Snap Shot manual. We had 2 volunteers that will try to “rewrite” this so it can be printed. Tammie Johnson will be the Chairperson. Jami Hardt and Renee Wetzsteon are members of the group.

Parent Involvement – this is a new group. Kirtsen Dvorak will be the chairperson. Other group members are Barb Burghart, Susan Gerenz, Sam Gores, Tonya Hertel, and Renee Wetzsteon

Regional CoPs Updates:

Region I: Getting reorganized

Region II: They are looking at a new goal for their Region and will be meeting soon. Jami and Sam co-facilitate.

Region III: Last meeting was in December and discussed agency updates and student situations. Nancy Lundeen and Bette Nelson co-facilitate..

Region IV: Have a subcommittee on rural work experience/employment. They are also trying to meet with employers regarding volunteer opportunities which could lead to employment. Erick Anthony Facilitates.

Region V: Had a panel at the Pathfinder Conference. They are also revising their Transition Guide. They are formulating a legislative paper to be sent off to them once they resume. Developing a “You Tube” channel on transition.

Region VI: In the planning stage for the 2016 Health, Trades and Technology Career Fair in Jamestown. This will be held at the Jamestown Civic Center in November 17, 2016.

<https://sites.google.com/site/httcareerfair/> Laurie Skadsem is the facilitator.

Region VII: Had a speaker from ND Brain Injury network at their last meeting. Otherwise, they have updates from the various agencies. Mary Robinson and Lisa Stymeist co-facilitate.

Region VIII: They are doing a “no more meeting” meeting. They send out an email with their topics every month and folks respond similar to a blog.

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 15, 2016

